(Amended) The currency authenticator of claim [11] 1 further

2 comprising means for determining the denomination of said bill to be authenticated and wherein said means for selecting one of said plurality of sensitivity settings

4 <u>selects said one of said plurality of sensitivity settings based on the determined</u>

<u>denomination of said bill;</u> wherein said means for selecting one of said plurality of

sensitivity settings selects a lower sensitivity setting when said bill is determined to be of a lower denomination and a higher sensitivity setting when said bill is determined

8 to be of a higher denomination.

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18. (Amended) A currency authenticator having a plurality of sensitivity settings comprising:

a first characteristic detector retrieving first characteristic information from a bill to be authenticated and generating an output signal;

means for determining the denomination of said bill to be authenticated;

means for selecting one of a plurality of sensitivity settings, said means for selecting one of said plurality of sensitivity settings selecting said one of said plurality

8 of sensitivity settings based on the determined denomination of said bill;

means for storing reference information associated with each of said sensitivity settings;

means for comparing said output signal to said reference information associated with the one of said plurality of sensitivity settings selected by said means for selecting; said means for comparing indicating that said bill is counterfeit if said output signal does not satisfactorily compare with said reference information;

wherein said means for selecting one of said plurality of sensitivity settings 16 selects a lower sensitivity setting when said bill is determined to be of a lower denomination and a higher sensitivity setting when said bill is determined to be of a 18 higher denomination. The currency authenticator of claim [21] 20 further (Amended) 2 comprising means for the operator of the authenticator to indicate the denomination of the bill to be authenticated and wherein said means for assigning a sensitivity setting 4 to each of said plurality of denominations permits an operator of the authenticator to independently assign a sensitivity setting to each of said plurality of denominations 6 and wherein said means for selecting selects said one of said plurality of sensitivity settings to be the sensitivity setting assigned to the indicated denomination. (Amended) The currency device of claim [30] \(\frac{\text{\text{Murther comprising}}}{\text{\text{comprising}}}\) 2 means for the operator of the device to indicate the denomination of the bill and means for assigning a sensitivity setting to each of a plurality of denominations and 4 wherein said means for assigning a sensitivity setting to each of said plurality of denominations permits an operator of the device to independently assign a 6 sensitivity setting to each of said plurality of denominations and wherein said means for selecting selects said one of said plurality of sensitivity settings to be the sensitivity setting assigned to the indicated denomination. (New) The currency authenticator of claim 1 further comprising means 2 for determining the denomination of said bill to be authenticated and wherein said

means for comparing compares the output signal to the reference information

4 corresponding to the determined denomination and the selected sensitivity setting.

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(New) The currency authenticator of claim 1 further comprising means

- 2 for the operator to indicate the denomination of the bill to be authenticated and wherein said means for comparing compares the output signal to the reference
- 4 information corresponding to the indicated denomination and the selected sensitivity setting.

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(New) The currency device of claim 24 further comprising means for

- determining the denomination of the bill and wherein said means for comparing compares the output signal to the reference information corresponding to the
- 4 determined denomination and the selected sensitivity setting.

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(New) The currency device of claim 24 further comprising means for

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- 2 the operator to indicate the denomination of the bill and wherein said means for comparing compares the output signal to the reference information corresponding to
- 4 the indicated denomination and the selected sensitivity setting.

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(New) A method of authenticating a currency bill having an

2 undetermined denomination using a currency authenticator, the method comprising the steps of:

- scanning a currency bill to determine a scanned authentication value associated with a selected authentication attribute of the currency bill;
- 6 determining the denomination of the currency bill;

selecting one of a plurality of authentication sensitivity levels associated with

8 the selected authentication attribute;

selecting a reference authentication value based on the determined

denomination of the currency bill and the selected sensitivity level, each of the
plurality of authentication sensitivity levels having a reference value associated with

each of a plurality of denominations stored in a memory of the currency authenticator;
and

authenticating the currency bill by comparing the scanned value to the selected reference value.

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(New) A method of authenticating a currency bill having an

- 2 undetermined denomination using a currency authenticator, the method comprising the steps of:
- 4 scanning a currency bill to determine a scanned authentication value associated with a selected authentication attribute of the currency bill;
- the operator indicating the denomination of the currency bill;
 selecting one of a plurality of authentication sensitivity levels associated with
- 8 the selected authentication attribute;

selecting a reference authentication value based on the indicated denomination

of the currency bill and the selected sensitivity level, each of the plurality of

authentication sensitivity levels having a reference value associated with each of a plurality of denominations stored in a memory of the currency authenticator; and authenticating the currency bill by comparing the scanned value to the selected reference value.

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(New) A method of authenticating currency using a currency

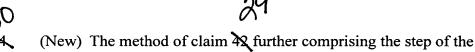
2 authenticator having a plurality of sensitivity settings comprising:

retrieving first characteristic information from a bill to be authenticated using

4 a first characteristic detector and generating an output signal;

selecting one of a plurality of sensitivity settings;

- comparing the output signal to reference information associated with the selected sensitivity setting, the reference information being stored in a memory of the
- authenticator, the memory storing reference information associated with each of the sensitivity settings for each of a plurality of denominations; and
- indicating that the bill is counterfeit if the output signal does not satisfactorily compare with the reference information.



- operator indicating the denomination of the bill and wherein the step of selecting one of the sensitivity settings comprises the authenticator selecting a sensitivity setting
- 4 based on the denomination indicated by the operator.